



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# Advent



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

[www.irwinfirstumc.org](http://www.irwinfirstumc.org)

[irwinfirstumc@comcast.net](mailto:irwinfirstumc@comcast.net)

Like us on *Facebook*

Rev. Bruce R. Judy, Pastor - 724-747-6098 (call or text)

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

Ronald Slavin – Youth Pastor

Laura Willby – Contemporary Music Coordinator

December 20, 2020  
The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December Memory Verse: John 16:33c.  
*“But take heart. I have overcome the world”*

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*The service is under the control of the Holy Spirit.*

**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**L:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

**PRELUDE “Greensleeves”**

**MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY**

**THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH  
THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Come to Christ, that living stone, rejected by the world, but in God’s sight chosen and precious.

**P:** We have responded to Christ’s call, and seek to be built into a spiritual house, a living reminder of God’s presence on earth.

**L:** Once we were no people, but now we are God’s people, called out of the darkness into God’s marvelous light. Therefore we sing with the Church in all ages:

**P:** Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer. By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**\*HYMN No. 220 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”, v. 1 & 4**

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

**Chorus**

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

**Chorus**

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - “WAITING ON THE THRESHOLD” - PEACE**

**8:15 Mike, Anne, Philip, Charles Osborn**

**10:15 Eric, Becky, Hannah Platt**

**WREATH HYMN No. 211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v. 7**

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.

From dust Thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.

**Chorus**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**WORD OF GOD Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup>but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith — <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)**

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.  
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,  
As we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

**\*HYMN No. 218      “It Came upon a Midnight Clear”, v. 1 & 4**

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**HYMN No. 2233 “Where Children Belong”**

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
This is where children belong.

**CHILDREN'S CHAT**

**SPECIAL MUSIC “He Is Born”– Chancel Choir**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**For our joys we say: “Praise the Lord.”  
For our concerns we say: “Lord, hear our prayers.”**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN**

**SERMON SCRIPTURE    Luke 1:26-38**

*The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup>“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**L:** The Word of God for the children of God.

**P: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON "Peace"**

**HYMN No. 240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", v. 1 & 3**

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING "Angels, We Have Heard on High"**

**(Please allow the ushers to direct you as you leave the sanctuary.)**

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

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**ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE**

Worship Host – Robbyn Slavin

Song Leader – David Lyons

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**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT:** Each year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee collects contributions from our congregation toward Christmas bonuses for our dedicated Church Staff. Please join the SPRC in showing our appreciation for their work by contributing using the envelopes marked "Love Gift." Envelopes will be available through today, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS – 12/20/2020**

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**A PROGRESSIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE**

**Fourth Week of Advent**

Our focus with the Progressive Nativity is where Mary and Joseph have traveled to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home to register for the census. They traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. Mary, was obviously pregnant and it was nearing the time for her baby to be born. But, there was no lodging available for them.

This week, you will see Mary and Joseph outside a stable, perhaps one very similar to the one they needed to stay at when Baby Jesus was born.

It was also about at that time some wise men from eastern lands were following a star and were arriving in Jerusalem. And as usual in Bible times, the shepherds were staying in the fields, guarding their flocks of sheep.



Come and join us on Christmas Eve when we celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus!

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**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH**

*Feel free to contact Pastor Bruce at any time if you are in need of a pastoral visit.  
724-747-6098 (call or text) or email at [preacherptl@gmail.com](mailto:preacherptl@gmail.com)*

**Sunday, December 20**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent/Advent Gift Giving**

8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church  
(Radio 87.9 FM)  
9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),  
Harvesters Adult Class,  
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA  
9:30 Toddler – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School  
(see announcement)  
10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church  
(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and  
Zoom (Meeting ID# 633 303 454 Password  
104289)

**Monday, December 21**

7:00 Blue Christmas Service

**Tuesday, December 22**

9-11:30 AM - Nativity set up  
7:30 NA

**Wednesday, December 23**

10:00 Prayer Group Meeting  
(Zoom Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3)  
10:00 QC Meeting  
1:00 Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom  
(Meeting ID: 826 4011 6693, Passcode 400790)

**Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**Office Closed**  
6:30 NA  
7:00 Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 Christmas Eve Service

**Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

**Office Closed**  
11:00 Christmas Day Service

**Saturday, December 26**

6:00 PM Contemporary Service

**Sunday, December 27**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**  
8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church  
(Radio 87.9 FM)  
9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),  
Harvesters Adult Class,  
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA  
9:30 Toddler – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School  
(see announcement)  
10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church  
(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom  
(Meeting ID# 633 303 454 Password 104289)

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**THE UPPER ROOM:** The January/February issue of The Upper Room are now available. They are a daily devotional filled with inspiring stories from Christians around the world. This is an easy way to make time for some scripture reading each day.

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**THANK YOU:**

Church Family, Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and expressions of sympathy on the loss of my sister and best friend, Donna. She is greatly missed.  
Thank you all, Debbie Kocevar

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**PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:** If you would have any prayer requests for any serious or pressing problem please contact Jean Barrett at (724-515-5524) or Bernie Johnston at (724-863-6967). This would be for immediate prayer concerns and should not be confused with the prayer list found in the bulletin. If you would like to be included as a prayer warrior, to pray for immediate concerns via text or email, please let us know. Thank you.

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**2021 CALENDARS:** Once again this year, our friends at Ott Funeral Home have donated wall calendars to our church. The calendars contain beautiful pictures and a monthly Bible verse. They are on the table in the Narthex and you are welcome to take them. We send out a big thank you- to Ott Funeral Home for their generosity.

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Due to the generosity of our congregation we were able to give 87 kids Christmas gifts and helped 31 families with groceries. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, Anne, Robbyn and the Outreach Committee.

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**REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

Please remember the following members and friends of our congregation who are in nursing homes or cannot get out of their homes. Make this an extra special time for them with a greeting from you and your family during the upcoming holidays.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| June Guckert<br>660 Kimlyn Road<br>N Huntingdon, PA 15642                                     | Agnes Reynolds<br>46 Ridge Avenue<br>N Irwin, PA 15642                           |
| LaVerne Frick<br>Walden's View<br>7990 State Rte. 30<br>N Huntingdon PA 15642                 | Marge Osterman<br>The Grove at Irwin<br>249 Maus Drive<br>N Huntingdon, PA 15642 |
| Wanda Halavan<br>Redstone Highlands Apt 384<br>12921 Redstone Drive<br>N Huntingdon, PA 15642 | Doris Collins<br>Golden Heights<br>3522 Route 130<br>Irwin, PA 15642             |
| Patty Hawk<br>206 Maple Street<br>Irwin, PA 15642   | Bobbie Jones<br>100 Western Avenue Apt 504<br>Irwin, PA 15642                    |
| Mary Greene<br>4023 Chiefton Road<br>Irwin, PA 15642  | Nancy Wallace<br>9864 McClellan Street<br>N Huntingdon, PA 15642                 |
| James Remaley, Sr<br>St. Anne's Home Rm B001<br>685 Angela Drive<br>Greensburg, PA 15601      |  |

These addresses are correct to the best of our knowledge. If you find an incorrect address, please let the office know so we can change it in our records. Thank you.  
Please let us know if there is someone you would like to add to the shut-in list.

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**TODDLER – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL:** this age group has not yet returned to in-church Sunday school. Please use the contact information listed to participate in the Zoom classes:  
Toddler Zoom Sunday School - 2-4 year old children - please email or call Dawn Capecci 412 651 2503, [missdawn25@yahoo.com](mailto:missdawn25@yahoo.com) or Donna Weber 724 864 4954, [donnam\\_weber@yahoo.com](mailto:donnam_weber@yahoo.com) for more information and the Zoom instructions.

Preschool - 5th grade Sunday School - 9:30 AM on Zoom. For more information please contact Becky at 412-816-1906.

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**MEDIA TEAM:** Volunteers are needed to join our media team. Our worship services, and many of our meetings on Zoom, would not be possible without them. You will be trained to use the equipment and assist with the services and meetings. If you would like to become part of the team please call Pastor Bruce (724-747-6098) or Pastor Ron (724-691-7113).

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**SAFETY GUIDELINES:** We are still practicing the COVID 19 safety guidelines set by the CDC for social distancing and wearing face masks. Thank you everyone for being so good about this and doing your part to protect yourself and others.

We encourage you to bring your own face mask when you come to the church. The disposable face masks that we have at the church should be used as a last resort as they are getting hard to come by and costly to purchase. And ... it's fun to see all the different mask designs!

Thank you for your cooperation.

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**2020 OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS:** We are coming to the end of 2020 and all 2020 contributions must be in to the office by December 31, 2020 to be credited on your 2020 Annual Giving Statement. Contributions received after December 31, 2020 will be posted to your 2021 Annual Giving Statement.

*Also*, receipts for items that you have bought for the church and wish to be reimbursed for or have credit for on your annual giving statement must also be turned in December 31, 2020. After December 31<sup>st</sup> the 2020 financial records will be closed and all credits will go toward the 2021.

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**Bible passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV) of the Holy Bible.**

**Call to Worship is taken from “The United Methodist Book of Worship”**

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**CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)**

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**220 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

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**218 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

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**240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

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**ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:** As you can see in “THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH” many of our services, Bible Study, and Prayer Group are all being broadcast using Zoom. If you would like to participate in these activities using Zoom, please follow the instructions below. Please contact Pastor Bruce or Ron if you have questions.

**For computer or smartphone:**

Go to Zoom.com Click-Join a meeting

When prompted enter Meeting ID, then a screen will pop up to enter password.

(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting)


You will enter the “meeting space”. If you move your mouse to the bottom of the box, it will show you the different options, like chat and video.

**For landline or cell phone (Audio only):**

Dial 1-646-558-8656. Enter meeting number and follow the prompts.

(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting in “This Week at our Church.”)

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# Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus? He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than 2 years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed.

**Follow the maze through the verse.**

**START**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14, KJV **FINISH**

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**THE SALVATION ARMY UNIT OF IRWIN** has its own phone number. If you know anyone in need of our services please have them call 724-331-7832. The office hours for the unit are Wednesday mornings from 9:30 until 11:30.

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**HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS:** If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from the pastor please call the office or Pastor Bruce. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he doesn't know there is a need.*

Pastor Bruce receives calls or texts at his cell phone number 724-747-6098

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**\*\*\*\*\* IN PERSONAL CARE & REHABILITATION FACILITIES \*\*\*\*\***

- Dorothy B. ~ Asbury Heights, Mt. Lebanon
- Marge O. ~ The Grove at Irwin
- Wanda H. ~ Redstone, N. Huntingdon
- James R., Sr. ~ St. Anne's Home, Greensburg
- Doris C. ~ Golden Heights (Harrison City)
- LaVerne F. ~ Walden's View

**\*\*\*\*\* CONTINUOUS PRAYERS \*\*\*\*\***

- Brent L., Kurt W. & Family, Cheryl M., Tim & Diane N., Rick H., Marlin A & Nancy P., Joe S., Joe L., Virginia, Jennifer N., Curt E., Cheryl H., Valerie M., Patty H., Jeanne R., Jeff M., Donna H., John B., Joe and Wava, Dean and Dorothy, Chris E., Rose N., Sara C., Jeanne and Larry A., Fred & Barb S., Mischa & Suzanne S., Diane B., Les H., John G., Noah C., Craig C., Red, Dawn, Amy P., Chuck K., Pat M., Jane I., Ashley, Stu S., Shawn S., Christa L., Rhonda, Beverly and Tom D., Laura, Marlin F., Stephanie S., Dave W., Bill & Elaine M., Kim V. Paul & Iva Lou B., Jackie S.
- Bob & Natalie F. & Family (Missionaries in India)
- Connie Wieck (Missionary)



\*\*\*\*\* THIS MONTHS PRAYERS LIST \*\*\*\*\*

*We will change the prayer list the first Sunday of each month.  
Contact the church office at 724-863-6858 with names for the list.*

Vi, Tom and Peggy, Sandy L., George and Kelly, Paul and Michelle, Neil and Alma, Yvonne I. and family, Rolan & Janice W., Samantha, Lilliana P., Tiffany M., Joe K., Our Country & World, COVID 19 Concerns, Our Country and Leaders, Our world, Medical & Emergency Personnel, First Responders and Military, All Essential Workers, Teachers and Students, Businesses, The Unrest in Our Country, Helena & Marilyn, George and Lisa S., Joseph D., Sara T., Marilyn F., Ray S., The Lois Frye Family, Jerry L., Janice E., Judy L., Jim L., Ethan D, Randy D, and Cindi D, Connie B., Audrey F., Chrissy O.

\*\*\*\*\* SERVICE PERSONNEL \*\*\*\*\*

Brandon D. – Korea                      Colby S. – Iraq                              Sara D.  
Angelo W. – Oklahoma City          Nicholas P. – Schofield Barracks, HI      Jeremy L.  
David J. – Afghanistan                Amanda M. – Texas                        Carl B.  
James G. – Texas                        Emery M. – Japan                          Mark Russak                              Edward J. III

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Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

Ronald Slavin – Youth Pastor

Laura Willby – Contemporary Music Coordinator

**December 19, 2020**

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December Memory Verse: John 16:33c.**

***“But take heart. I have overcome the world”***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Memory Verse**

**Advent Wreath Lighting & Opening Prayer**

**Worship music:**

*The First Noel*

*The Name of Emmanuel*

**Sharing of joys and concerns/ prayer**

**Offering**

**Worship music:**

*Christmas Eve in Bethlehem*

*Peace Has Come*

*Adore You*

**Scripture & Message**

**Closing song:**

*Christmas Day*

**Prayer Requests**

*I cried unto the Lord with my voice and he heard me out of his holy hill. ~ Psalm 3:4*



# *Christmas Poinsettias 2020*



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642  
 724-863-6858

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**GIVEN BY:**

Our Parents & Grandparents .....	Mark & Becky Rudy
William David Bryan .....	Katrina & Kyle Bryan
My Husband, William McCune .....	Shirley McCune
Alvin & Frances Cipra .....	Gloria & Doris Cipra
John & Olga Brown .....	Gloria & Doris Cipra
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Shea, Sr. ....	Bob & Betsie Shea
Mrs. Nellie O'Connell .....	Bob & Betsie Shea
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Shea, Jr. ....	Bob & Betsie Shea
Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Dorene Kemerer..	Bob & Betsie Shea
Miss Mary Ann Shea .....	Bob & Betsie Shea
Mr. Ronald Mowery .....	Bob & Betsie Shea
Ronald Kuhn .....	Lois Kuhn
My Husband, Bob Hubert .....	Alice Hubert
Raymond & Jean Taylor .....	Thomas Taylor
Loved Ones .....	Ed, Nellie & Krista Brown
Our Grandson, Samuel Judy .....	Pastor Bruce & Bonnie Judy
Our Parents .....	Pastor Bruce & Bonnie Judy
Those We Lost .....	Bill & Bobbie Schaefer
Our Parents .....	John & Darlene Simpson

## *The Legend of the Poinsettia*



There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas came together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds

from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

### **GIVEN BY:**

Pro Daugherty ..... Sandy Daugherty

Grandparents, Lois & Edward Slavin ...Katelyn Slavin

Parents: Grace & Don Hansel ..... John & Donna Weber  
Charles & June Weber

Our Grandparents ..... Tiffany & David Mlinarich

Our Son, Dale Mays ..... Bill & Elaine Mays

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### **HONORARIUM DONATIONS**

### **IN HONOR OF:**

### **GIVEN BY:**

Our Children & Grandchildren ..... Mark & Becky Rudy

The Ronald Kuhn Family .....Lois Kuhn

Maddox Mlinarich ..... Matt Rudy

Maddox ..... David & Tiffany Mlinarich

Children: JJ Weber & Dawn Capecci ... John & Donna Weber

Grandparents, Jerry & Patsy Hood .....Katelyn Slavin

